



**RANCHO BELLOTA HORSEBACK RIDING GETAWAY**  
**NORTHERN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO**  
**Friday – Sunday, June 8-10, 2007**  
**COST: \$395**

**WELCOME!** Thank you for your interest in what has been an extraordinary trip for our small groups of Baja California Adventurers over the past eight years. We pride ourselves on leading safe, enjoyable and personable horseback riding trips to Rancho Bellota. We are committed to a small group and friendly atmosphere. Ten adults plus one leader/driver travel together in one 15-passenger Ford van. The information that follows will give you a clear picture of the type of adventure you can expect. We hope you will join us.

**ABOUT THIS TRIP:** We will spend the weekend at Rancho Bellota, a 13,000-acre, working cattle ranch located in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains in northern Baja California. The ranch offers horseback-riding instruction, miles of trails to explore, and presentations of old time ranching techniques. Many past trip members have remarked that they had the feeling they stepped back in time to a simpler and more rustic way of life. Enjoy all the comforts of home in your fully furnished adobe cabin and gain a few pounds on some of the most delicious Mexican ranch food in all of Baja California. We will also visit a nearby Kumeyaay Indian community, where native arts and crafts are being revived and can be purchased--thus supporting the local people. Participation in this outing is best suited to beginning riders. Experienced riders may find "the group approach" too confining.

**WEATHER:** This trip is offered in both December and May. In December expect daytime temperatures in the 70's and evenings in the 40's. May trip participants can expect highs of 80 and lows of 50. Rain is much more common in December. Keep in mind that the weather and temperature at the ranch are comparable to San Diego's east county climate.

**INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:** The fee of \$395.00 includes professional outdoor leaders and wranglers, two nights' cabin lodging with hot shower and bathroom, six exquisite and authentic Mexican ranch meals, round trip transportation via air conditioned 15-passenger van, two days of horseback riding (approximately 10 hours), Mexican Insurance and tolls, rain gear, pack bags, and purified drinking water. Please read our cancellation policies carefully before registering.

**NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:** Tips for ranch hands and cooks, native arts and crafts at Kumeyaay community.

**CANCELLATION POLICY: PLEASE READ BEFORE REGISTERING FOR AN OUTING**

1. *If you cancel from this outing ten (20) working days (M-F) prior to the pre-trip meeting, you are entitled to a refund less a twenty-five percent (25%) handling fee or a credit voucher good for the full amount which can be used toward another outing. Credit vouchers are valid through the end of the academic year. Note: transferring from one trip to another constitutes a cancellation and must be done within the aforementioned deadline to avoid loss of fee.*
2. *If you must cancel from an outing after the aforementioned deadline (above), you may receive a refund (less a 25% handling fee) or a credit voucher good for the full amount **ONLY IF WE CAN FILL YOUR VACATED SPOT**. Please note that all other spaces must be filled before we can fill your space. If we are unable to fill your vacated spot, you will not be entitled to a credit voucher or refund. **NO EXCEPTIONS.***
3. *Sometimes, we must cancel an outing due to low enrollment. In such a situation, we try to contact enrolled participants either by the Monday prior to the outing or the day of the pre-trip meeting. Enrolled participants will be eligible for a full refund or credit voucher.*
4. *In the event of cancellation due to unforeseeable circumstances on the part of Aztec Adventures or County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (bad weather, natural disaster, or instructor illness for example), we will make every attempt to reschedule the outing or issue a full refund or credit voucher.*

**RISKS/HAZARDS/SAFETY:** Trip members should be comfortable traveling in Mexico and being around horses. This is a working cattle ranch and as such trip members need to adhere to the instructions of the leaders and Rancho Bellota staff at all times! Falling off your horse is always a possibility. The rough terrain around the ranch is filled with cactus, chaparral, low hanging oak branches, small streams, and wildlife, such as rattlesnakes and mountain lions. Trip members must make a conscious effort to be safe. One person's disdain for safety will always result in more hardship for the rest of the group. If we do have an accident or injury that requires medical attention beyond the scope of our leader's experience, the trip is immediately over without refund. Everyone will also be asked to help with the evacuation. Our leaders are certified Wilderness First Responders and are trained to administer first aid in this type of environment. However, while they can treat injuries they cannot always prevent them.

**OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION:** Plan on being a contributing member of a group of 12, including trip leaders. We will enjoy meals together and divide equally any tasks that need to be done. Please NO DRUGS! The penalty for possession of illegal drugs in Mexico is severe. Alcohol consumption is also prohibited in the vans and during our ranch stay. The leaders reserve the right to enforce safety at their discretion.

**HEALTH/PHYSICAL CONDITIONING:** Trip members should be in good physical condition and able to hoist themselves onto a horse without assistance. Rancho Bellota recommends a maximum personal weight limit of 225 pounds. Prior experience horseback riding is not necessary, as instruction will be provided. However, some riding lessons before the trip could boost your confidence and enhance your comfort level. You should expect to be on a horse for the better part of six hours on Saturday—taking several breaks. Sunday will be a shorter ride of only a couple of hours.

**FOOD:** Our gracious Mexican hosts will fire up the coals and wood stove to prepare some authentic Mexican ranch meals. We'll dine in the adobe-dining hall and around the campfire and swap stories of our adventures exploring the canyons and foothills. Plan on gaining weight—past trip members always mention that this is one of the most memorable aspects of the weekend. Please note, Vegetarians are easily accommodated.

**LODGING:** Your cabin was constructed on-site from handcrafted adobe bricks in the Old Mexico architectural style. Each cabin sleeps 2-3 with complete bedding and has its own bathroom, shower and old-fashioned wood stove. There is no electricity at the ranch. Light at night comes from oil lamps.

**YOUR TRIP LEADERS:** Your trip leader/driver is an experienced Aztec Adventures staff member, who regularly leads all kinds of outdoor adventure experiences throughout the year. S/he will work very hard to provide you with an enjoyable trip. In addition, your bilingual Ranch hosts are expert western riders and have an intimate knowledge of the ranch and surrounding land which has been in their family for nearly 100 years.

**STEWARDSHIP:** The Aztec Adventures Outdoor Program strives to give something back to the places and communities from which we derive so much enjoyment and knowledge. Whenever we visit small communities in Baja California, we strive to bring with us used clothes of any kind, but especially children's clothing. Many of our Baja friends struggle economically and a generous donation of clothing is always appreciated. We encourage you to go through your closet for items you no longer wear or use and bring them on the trip.

## ITINERARY

**Pre-Trip Meeting:** A required pre-trip meeting will be held **Thursday, May 3, 2007 at 7:00pm** at a County of San Diego Department of Parks & Recreation facility TBD. Directions and parking permits will be sent with your confirmation. Your attendance is required so that we can meet each other and all be on the “same page” once our adventure begins. At this time we will go over the final itinerary, packing lists, and expectations.

**Friday, May 11:** Meet at SDSU at 2:00pm. Load van and drive approximately 3 hours (the last hour on a dirt road) to Rancho Bellota. The ranch is located 30 miles east of the Ensenada Toll road approximately half way between the town of Rosarito and the city of Ensenada. Arrive around 5:00pm get cabin assignments and attend a *Welcome to the Ranch* barbecue dinner. Enjoy getting to know people around the campfire -- s'mores included!

**Saturday, May 12** Breakfast served at 7:30 with all the coffee you can drink! Meet your horse, saddle and real leather chaps at 8:30—and then it is off for a full day on the trail. At mid-day enjoy an authentic trail lunch of burritos cooked over an open fire. Arrive at the Kumeyaay community around 2:00pm, visit and learn about history of basket making and other traditional crafts—then return to ranch for a well deserved soak in the pool (and/or hot shower), nap, or round of horseshoes before dinner. If you thought Friday night's dinner was good—wait till you are served this one!

**Sunday, May 13:** Breakfast served at 7:30 again—hope you're hungry! If your butt can handle it join us for a two-three hour ride on some different trails—or you can relax around camp, go on a hike, take a nap, eat more food—the choice is yours. After one more lunch at the ranch we will load the van and drive back to San Diego. The ride home will most likely take an hour longer due to the border wait. If we leave the ranch around 2:30pm we should be back at SDSU before 7:00pm.

### PERSONAL EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING:

- ☐ Riding Boots or sturdy shoes with a smooth sole—your footwear should easily slide in and out of the stirrups on your saddle. Hiking boots with lug soles do not work very well.
- ☐ Blue Jeans—snug fitting or riding pants. Pants with a lot of seams may cause rubbing/blisters.
- ☐ Long Sleeve Shirt – we will encounter low hanging branches and other vegetation that may cause abrasions.
- ☐ Sports Bra – for women or possibly padded biking shorts for men
- ☐ Wide brimmed shade Hat
- ☐ Wool stocking cap (for December trip)
- ☐ Bandanna
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Comfortable Ranch/Camp clothes: Sweat pants, shorts, sweat shirt, sweater, jacket, etc.
- ☐ Windbreaker or nylon shell
- ☐ Bathing suit (for May trip)
- ☐ Tennis shoes
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Sunscreen & Lip balm
- ☐ Small flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Camera & Film
- ☐ Money & I.D. for tips and spending money
- ☐ Durable (crush proof) one liter water bottle

### EQUIPMENT THAT AZTEC ADVENTURES WILL PROVIDE:

- ☐ Expedition First Aid Kit
- ☐ Rain Gear for all trip members
- ☐ Satellite Phone—for emergency use only!
- ☐ All ingredients and equipment for s'mores!